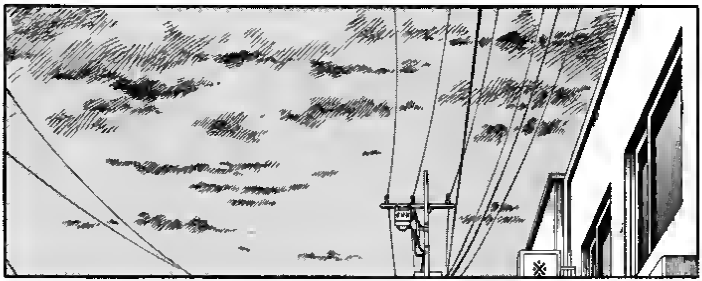
#4
Minomushi

I THINK...
I'VE BEEN GETTING HEIGHTENED SPIRITUAL AWARENESS LATELY.
ARE YOU OK?
NO, SERIOUSLY!
I NAIL ALL MY TEST-COVERAGE PREDICTIONS, AND WHEN I PASS THROUGH A PLACE THAT I DON'T WANT TO, I FEEL MY BODY GETTING HEAVIER
IT'S JUST YOUR IMAGINATION
QUIT IT...
I CAN SEE IT ...
THERE, BEHIND YOU.
WHAT ...?

I'M FEELING VAGUE MURDEROUS TEMPTATIONS HERE...
THAT WAS SO TYPICAL
YOU LITTLE ...
HA HA HA HA HA
HEY, HEY.
CAN YOU REALLY SEE THEM?
SHE'S RIGHT.
THERE ARE A FEW LITTLE ONES.
HEY, THAT WAS MEAN!
SORRY SHIZURU!
EHEHE
TOO SLOW
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SHIZURU?
OF COURSE SHE'S BS'ING.
THAT'S WAY TOO GULLIBLE.

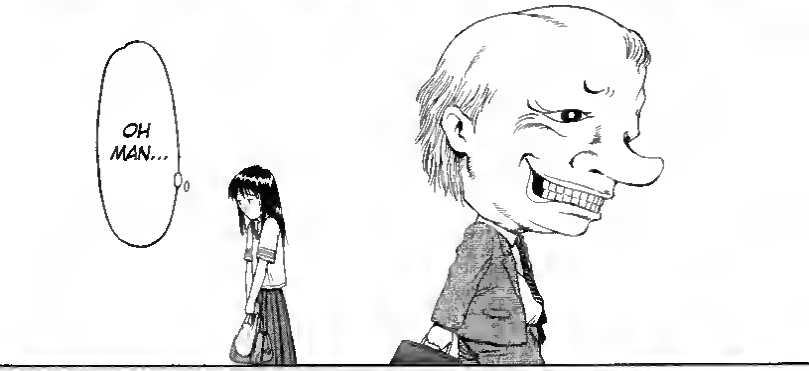
THAT WAS SO OBVIOUS.
WHY DID I EXPECT ANYTHING DIFFERENT?



AROUND THIS TIME, I ALWAYS FEEL DEJECTED.
EVERY YEAR...
婚桃屋

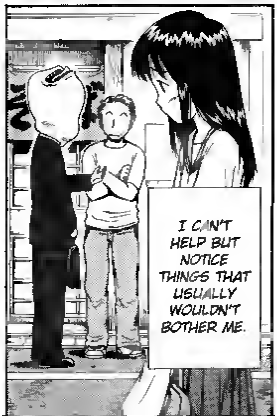
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE USED TO IT BY NOW...
BUT WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM, IT STILL BOTHERS ME.

BECAUSE DURING THIS SEASON...
BETWEEN MAY AND JUNE, I START TO SEE MORE AND MORE OF *THEM*...

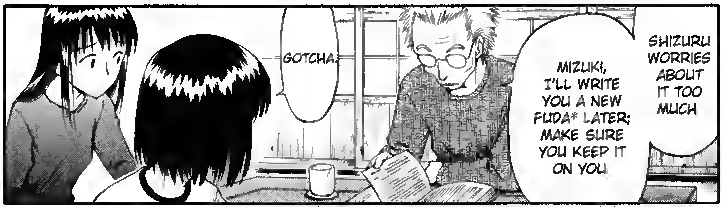

OH MAN...

SIGH...

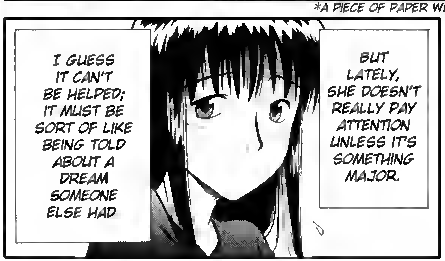
そば
MAYBE I'M GETTING OVERLY NERVOUS.

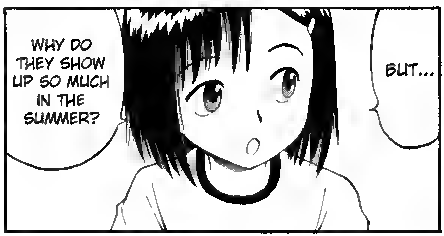

I CAN'T HELP BUT NOTICE THINGS THAT USUALLY WOULDN'T BOTHER ME.

HEY, DON'T TALK ABOUT ME LIKE I'M SOME SORT OF SEASONAL PHENOMENON
WHEN YOU START SEEING MORE OF THOSE THINGS, SHIZURU, I THINK "AHH, SUMMER'S GETTING CLOSER."
GUESS I SHOULD BE CAREFUL TOO

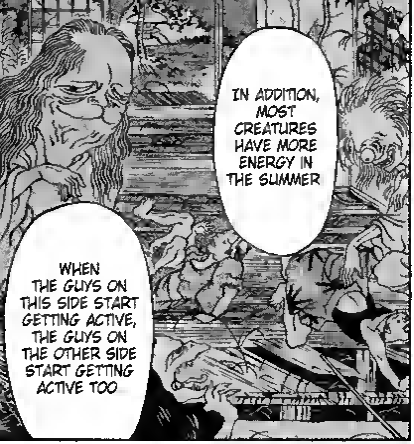


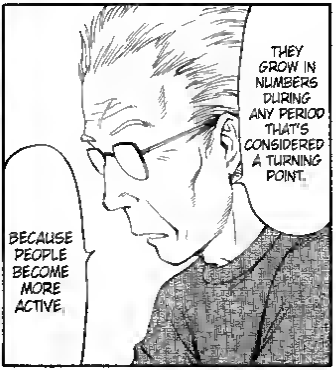
*A PIECE OF PAPER WITH SPELLS WRITTEN ON IT. A TALISMAN OF SORTS

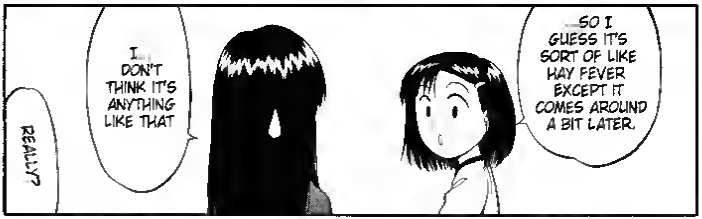

I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED; IT MUST BE SORT OF LIKE BEING TOLD ABOUT A DREAM SOMEONE ELSE HAD
BUT LATELY, SHE DOESN'T REALLY PAY ATTENTION UNLESS IT'S SOMETHING MAJOR.

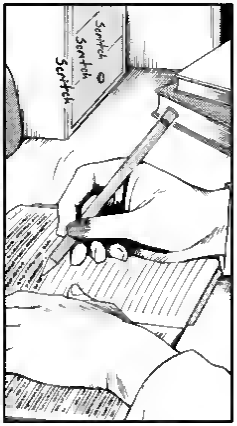


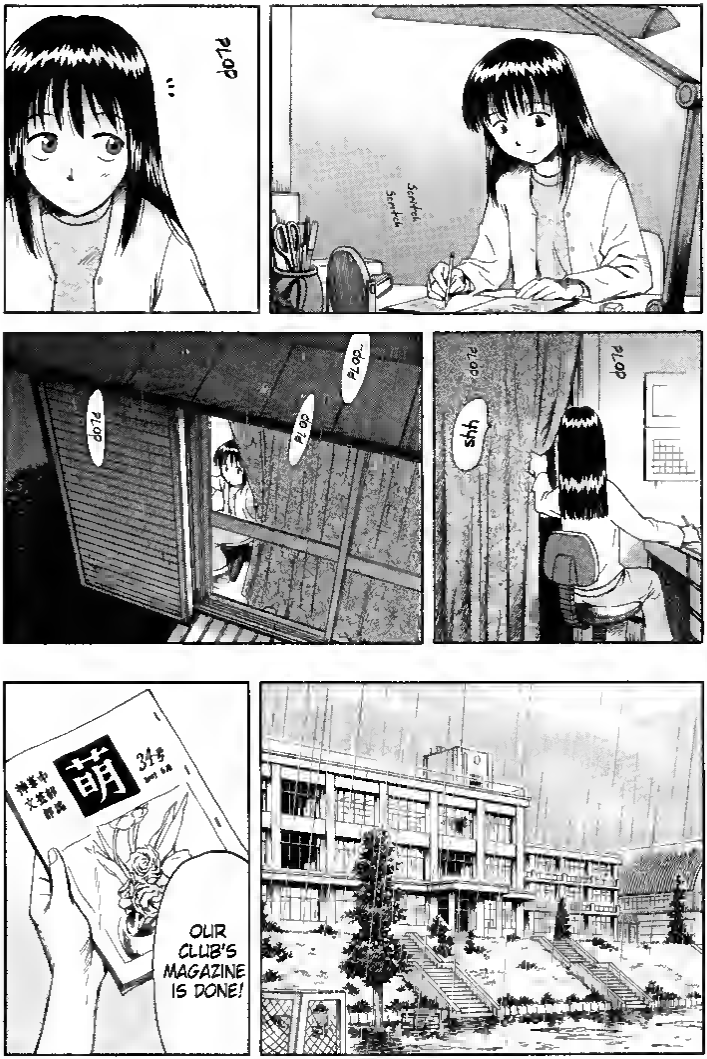
THIS HOUSE IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE I CAN TALK ABOUT THESE THINGS.
HMMM-HMMMMMM
HMMM
MIZUKI IS FOR SURE THE PERSON I'M MOST AT EASE WITH.


IN ADDITION, MOST CREATURES HAVE MORE ENERGY IN THE SUMMER
WHEN THE GUYS ON THIS SIDE START GETTING ACTIVE, THE GUYS ON THE OTHER SIDE START GETTING ACTIVE TOO


THEY GROW IN NUMBERS DURING ANY PERIOD THAT'S CONSIDERED A TURNING POINT.
BECAUSE PEOPLE BECOME MORE ACTIVE.


REALLY?
I... DON'T THINK IT'S ANYTHING LIKE THAT
...SO I GUESS IT'S SORT OF LIKE HAY FEVER EXCEPT IT COMES AROUND A BIT LATER.

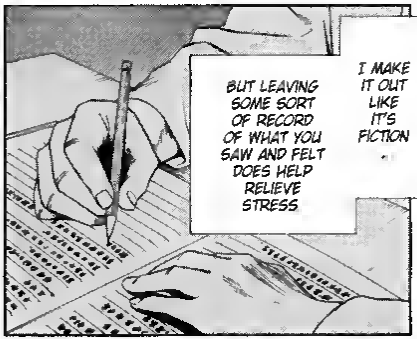

Scratch
Scratch
Scratch


plop
...
Scratch Scratch
plop
plop
plop
plop
shh
plop
plop
萌
OUR CLUB'S MAGAZINE IS DONE!

OH MAN... YOUR STUFF IS CRAZY AS ALWAYS, SHIZURU.
HUH?
Literature Club meeting
Club work activities
YOUR PLOT AND NARRATIVE ARE REALLY ORDINARY.
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO MONSTERS AND BIZARRE INCIDENTS, YOU SUDDENLY START GOING INTO SO MANY FINE DETAILS
A HA HA ...
I LIKE HIBARA-SAN'S WRITING.
ME TOO.
SEMPAI
MOST PEOPLE CAN'T WRITE SOME-THING LIKE THIS
YEAH.
YOU HAVE A GREAT IMAGIN-ATION
A HA HA ...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
WHEN THEY TALK LIKE THAT.

REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY THINK OF IT, I CAN GET THEM TO READ IT AND KNOW THESE THINGS

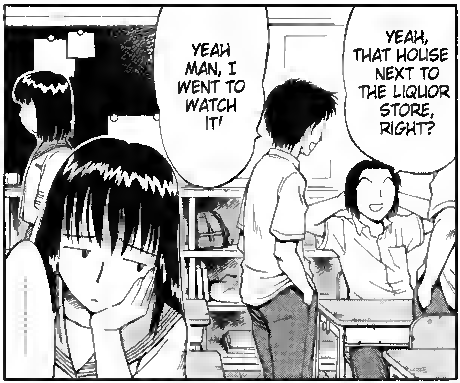

I MAKE IT OUT LIKE IT'S FICTION.
BUT LEAVING SOME SORT OF RECORD OF WHAT YOU SAW AND FELT DOES HELP RELIEVE STRESS

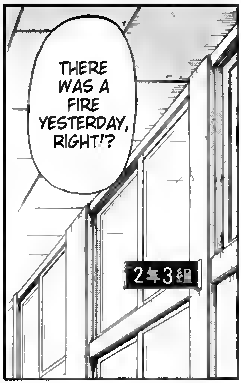
LOOKS LIKE HE'S HAVING TROUBLE WALKING.
THEY HANG AROUND YOU EVEN MORE WHEN YOU TRY TO HURRY.

とっ
とと
すう
すう
すう

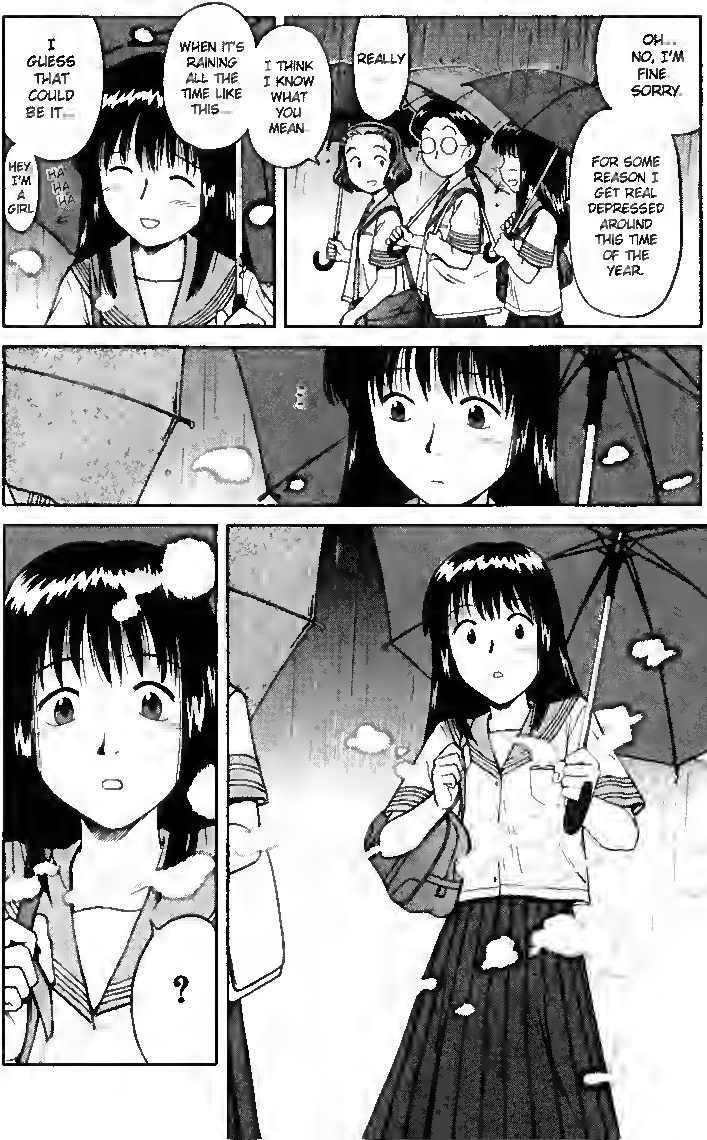
木酒店
FLAGS THAT ARE EERILY RED...
SOMETHING BAD'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THIS HOUSEHOLD SOON...

EVEN THOUGH I UNDERSTAND THAT MY BEING WHAT I AM IS IN NO WAY A BAD THING...
ザァ ァ ァ ァ ァ
I FEEL SO DREARY AND HELPLESS... I FEEL LIKE THE FACT THAT I AM WHAT I AM IS TERRIBLY BORING AND POINTLESS...


YEAH MAN, I WENT TO WATCH IT!
YEAH, THAT HOUSE NEXT TO THE LIQUOR STORE, RIGHT?


THERE WAS A FIRE YESTERDAY, RIGHT!?
2年3組

WE WERE TALKING FOR WAY TOO LONG.
YEAH.
SIGH
HEY, SHIZURU.
HUH?
WHAT'S UP?
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING PRETTY DOWNBEAT LATELY.
YEAH.
YOU'RE ALWAYS GLOOMY, AND SIGHING ALL THE TIME

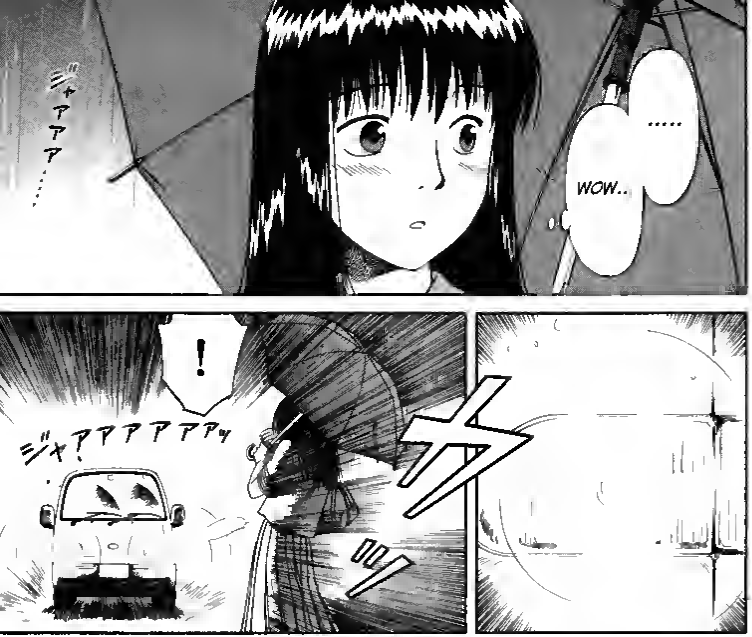

OH... NO, I'M FINE SORRY.
FOR SOME REASON I GET REAL DEPRESSED AROUND THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.
REALLY
I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
WHEN IT'S RAINING ALL THE TIME LIKE THIS...
I GUESS THAT COULD BE IT...
HEY I'M A GIRL
HA HA HA
?

わっ!!
KYA!
WHAT IS THIS...?
AH...
WHAT'S WRONG?
...THEY CAN'T SEE IT.
S... SORRY.
YOU GUYS GO AHEAD.
UHH, SURE.

DON'T PANIC.
SETTLE DOWN, ACT CALM.
IT DOESN'T BURN, AND IT'S NOT HOT...
IT'S A "YIN"* FLAME.
...I SEE ...
WHEN YOU BAT IT AWAY...
YOU GET EVEN MORE OF IT.

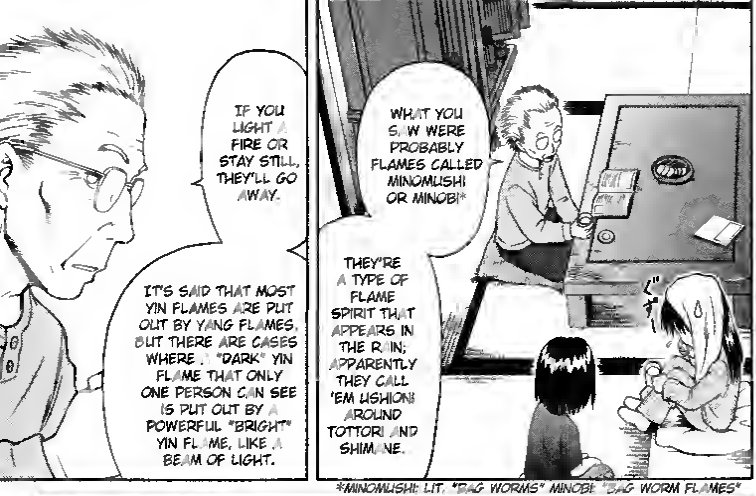
*AS IN "YIN AND YANG" (2 POLAR OPPOSITES I.E. NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE, SHADOW AND LIGHT)

WHA...
わぁ...
.....

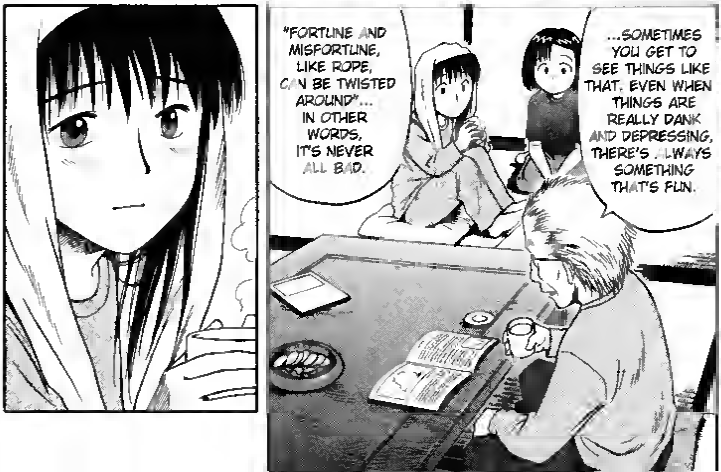


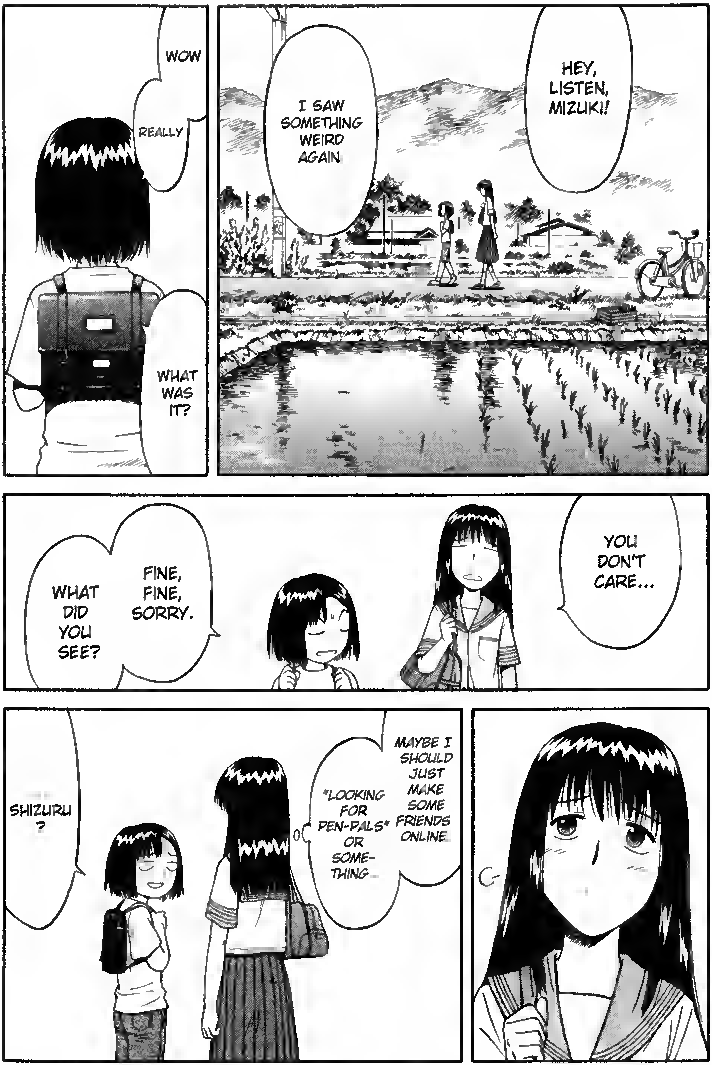
<SP_AASSH>

OH MAN, YOU'RE SOAKED.
YOU WEREN'T PAYING ENOUGH ATTENTION
HIII...
.....
IT DIS-APPEARED
...IT WAS SO PRETTY.
ARE YOU OK?
YEAH, I'M FINE...
AH
AH...
CHOO!!


IF YOU LIGHT A FIRE OR STAY STILL, THEY'LL GO AWAY.
IT'S SAID THAT MOST YIN FLAMES ARE PUT OUT BY YANG FLAMES, BUT THERE ARE CASES WHERE A "DARK" YIN FLAME THAT ONLY ONE PERSON CAN SEE IS PUT OUT BY A POWERFUL "BRIGHT" YIN FLAME, LIKE A BEAM OF LIGHT.
WHAT YOU S, W WERE PROBABLY FLAMES CALLED MINOMUSHI OR MINOBI*
THEY'RE A TYPE OF FLAME SPIRIT THAT APPEARS IN THE R IN; APPARENTLY THEY CALL 'EM USHIONI AROUND TOTTORI AND SHIMANE.
*MINOMUSHI: LIT. "BAG WORMS" MINOBI: "BAG WORM FLAMES"

"LIKE THE LIGHTS WHEN THEY MOVE, LIKE SHADOWS WHEN THEY SETTLE." I GUESS YIN FLAMES THAT MOVE AROUND COULD BE CONSIDERED "A SPOT OF BRIGHTNESS IN THE DARK."
WELL, IN ANY CASE, THEY DON'T CAUSE ANY REAL HARM, IF YOU LOOK AT THEM CALMLY THEY'RE ACTUALLY QUITE FASCINATING.


"FORTUNE AND MISFORTUNE, LIKE ROPE, CAN BE TWISTED AROUND"... IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S NEVER ALL BAD.
...SOMETIMES YOU GET TO SEE THINGS LIKE THAT. EVEN WHEN THINGS ARE REALLY DANK AND DEPRESSING, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT'S FUN.


WOW
REALLY
WHAT WAS IT?
I SAW SOMETHING WEIRD AGAIN
HEY, LISTEN, MIZUKI!
YOU DON'T CARE...
FINE, FINE, SORRY.
WHAT DID YOU SEE?
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST MAKE SOME FRIENDS ONLINE
"LOOKING FOR PEN-PALS" OR SOMETHING
SHIZURU?